



The Bonita Highlander

March 2020

From the Board President - Mike Seiler

Sad news that we lost two wonderful people who served on our Board of Directors over the past twelve months: **Debbie Allen**, who had been serving as our Vice President, and just recently, **Joe Schmidt**, also a previous Board Vice President. I will note them in my “State of the Association” briefing during our upcoming Annual Homeowners’ meeting. Both families “RV’d” together and both served our BHHA BOD admirably.

Before retiring, **Debbie** was the manager of purchasing/warehouse services for the Chula Vista Elementary School District. She also worked in purchasing at Southwestern College. She served over 5 years as the Vice President of the BHHA Board of Directors and always brought an honest and forthright perspective to whatever issue or policy matter the Board was working. She is missed by her many friends, co-workers, acquaintances... and me.

Joe Schmidt never really retired, but kept on drawing and “tooning” even after he became ill. He was an artist, to say the least, and demonstrated such in his many illustrations for RV magazines as well as his paintings, some of which were on display at his art show at the Bonita Museum in 2012. We have a special recognition of his talent on page 3 of this newsletter. Suffice it to say, that he was a one-of-a-king gentleman, and he is missed by friends and acquaintance that he made throughout his life. He provided some great editorial-type drawings for briefings I gave on water rate increases back in 2011 or so... and one on a “White Plastic Fencing” issue we had at one time in the Highlands. The last one below was typically Joe... welcoming **Debbie Allen** to the BHHA Board of Directors. Quite a guy! ~ Mike



What's New in the Neighborhood

Wednesday Afternoon-Evening Farmers' Market. A new addition to life in Bonita is the Farmer's Market that is in the Chula Vista Municipal Golf Course parking lot on Wednesday's. The hours are from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Their sign says "Fresh and Local," and I am told there is a variety of prepared food available as well as produce and flowers. Hopefully this venture will thrive as has the Farmers' Market in Chula Vista.

Optimists Club Book Sale - Ann Stevens (Highlands resident) is the founder and organizer of the **Bonita Optimist Club's Semi-annual Used Book Sale.** The next one takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 7 and 8 at the Bonita Museum, where as many as 13,000 books will be sold with all proceeds benefiting the club's charitable programs for children. Book sale fans say this book sale is the best of its kind in the region because of the quality of the books it sells. Ann retired from Sweetwater Union High School District where she taught, worked as a counselor and Vice Principal. The motto of the Optimist Club is "Bringing Out the Best in Kids," which certainly fits this retired teacher.

The Flower Fields, March 1, 2020. For more than sixty years, Mother Nature has transformed the rolling hills of North San Diego County into one of the most spectacular and coordinated displays of natural color and beauty anywhere in the world.

San Zoo Safari Park Butterfly Jungle, March 21 - May 10, 2020. Walk through the Butterfly Jungle -filled with butterflies of all colors and sizes. There's a special thrill in being surrounded by these fluttering beauties - and guests wearing bright colors, may find the winged wonders perching on them! ~ Ed.

U.S. Postal Address for Correspondence

Bonita Highlands Homeowners' Association
P.O. Box 458 Bonita, CA 91908-0458

E-mail address: bhighlander@cox.net

FAX only: (619) 479-2200 (24 hours)

You may also find documents, forms, meeting minutes, and notices on our **BHHA web site:**
www.bonitahighlands.org

Bonita Highlands HOA Assessments

The budget packet you received contains the annual assessment information. The amount of the assessment for 2020 will be the same as it was for 2019: \$395.00 Not many HOA's have such a bargain. Our volunteer Board and capable Staff are why this is so.



Homeowner assessment "friendly reminders" will be mailed in mid- February. Your payments should be mailed so as to be received by April 1, 2020. Failure to return your assessment payment by April 1st will result in late charges, which will be added to the amount due. If you are having financial difficulties, please contact the HOA. ~ Ed.



**The next monthly
BHHA Board of
Directors meeting:**

Tuesday,
March 10, 2019
6:30 PM in the

Bonita - Sunnyside Fire Station's
Community Room,
located at 4900 Bonita Road.
An Executive Session may follow,
if required.

**All Bonita Highlands homeowners
are welcome to attend!**



The Bonita Highlander

...is the newsletter of the Bonita Highlands Homeowners' Association, a California non-profit corporation whose mailing address is:
P.O. Box 458
Bonita, CA 91908-0458

This newsletter is published periodically (usually once per month) at Bonita, CA, and is distributed free (postage paid) to each residence within the Bonita Highlands community.

Editor / Distribution: **Mary Ellen Phillips**

Submissions for publication should be sent to the editor, copy-ready, at bhighlander@cox.net. The deadline is the 15th of the month for publication the following month. The Association reserves the right to edit any copy submitted for publication.

Joe Schmidt - Gifted Cartoonist and Highland's Resident

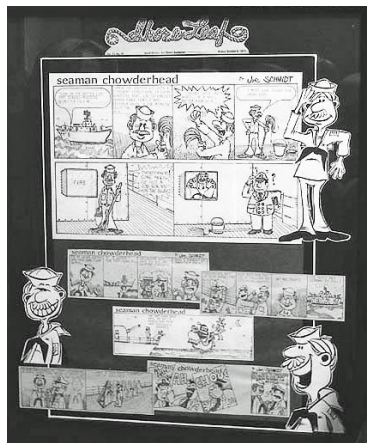


Joe Schmidt was an original Highlands resident who passed away in February after battling cancer for several years.

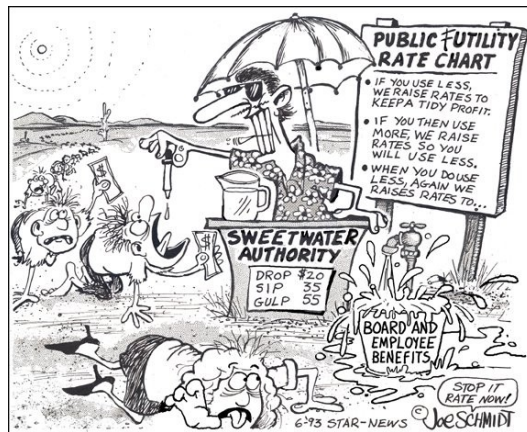
Born in Los Angeles, Joe graduated from Long Beach State and joined the Navy during the Vietnam era. He met his wife Sue while stationed in San Diego. While in the Navy, he drew a cartoon for local newsletters called "seaman chowderhead," which lampooned Navy life. Upon leaving the Navy, Joe became a teacher and spent the next 33 years teaching art and animation for the Sweetwater Union High School District.

Joe and Sue moved into the Highlands as the first 100 homes were completed. It seems that the Highlands' early residents were either teachers or Navy officers. There were 5 teachers on Good Karma alone. As an educator, friend, and artist, Joe became involved in many activities and often created artwork to celebrate a special event, special people, and places in our area. Many of us have his pen and ink drawings of **Farmer John's fruit stand** that stood under a big pepper tree on the site of a street now named "Yah Way," a cunning phonetic of "Yahweh." The neighborhood kids loved to visit Farmer John's and get fresh fruit after school. He also captured the **Sunny-side Store** in Pen and ink; famous for all kinds of goodies and noted for two gas pumps on Bonita Rd.

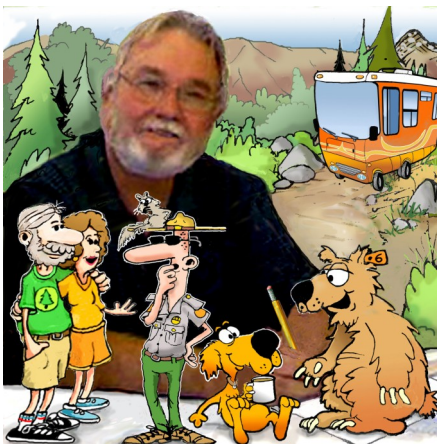
While teaching, Joe also contributed editorial cartoons for the *Chula Vista Star News*, *The Union Tribune* and created a comic strip "*Winding Roads*" in Trailblazer magazine. He was most pleased that his cartoons were published in *MotorHome Magazine* for the past two years. Students at Discovery Elementary have been wearing the **Dragon** mascot, which Joe created when his son Steve was a student there. It has been on their school shirts for 25 years. Joe's dragon lives on as students receive "*Distinguished Dragon*" awards every quarter, as will the memory of our dear friend Joe Schmidt. Here are some other 'toons from Joe.



seaman chowderhead



"The Impressionist Painter"



Joe with WR Cast



"Surprise Package"



Fire Gang On Ladder



New Neighbors: Call the Bonita Highland's "Welcoming Committee" representative Bobbie Snider and "get mugged" (a coffee mug, that is)! Call (619) 421-9384 to set up an appointment or ask questions.





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P.O. Box 458
Bonita, CA 91908-0458

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**BHHA Board Meeting Agenda March 10, 2020.
Start Time is 6:30 p.m.**

1. Call to order, roll, announcement of next meeting, adoption of minutes and agenda.
2. Homeowner Open Communications.
3. Homeowner appearances for appeals to violation notices or fines and requests for structural alterations.
4. Committee and staff reports.
5. Old Business.
A) ADU and JADUs
B)
6. New Business
7. Community items of interest. 8. Board Member Comments
9. Adjournment. 10. Executive session will be held.

**BHHA Board Meeting Agenda, April 14, 2020
Start Time - 6:30 p.m.**

1. Call to order, roll, announcement of next meeting, adoption of minutes and agenda.
2. Homeowner Open Communications.
3. Homeowner appearances for appeals to violation notices or fines, requests for structural alteration.
4. Committee and staff reports.
5. Old Business. 6. New Business. Community items of interest.
8. Board Member Comments. 9. Adjournment.
10. Executive session may be held.

**Do watch out for
kids in the
morning at
Crosswalks!
Slow down or stop
as directed.**

(Cartoon drawn by
Joe Schmidt)



The Bonita Highlands Homeowners' Association Board of Directors welcomes and encourages e-mail and letters from other homeowners. Any letter sent to the Board may be published in this newsletter. Please sign letters and include a phone number (which will NOT be published). Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author, the editor, or other contributor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Board of Directors or any member thereof.